Transport Canada | Transports Canada
Road Safety | Securite routiere

CL 9104 (E)

LEAFLET TP 2436 FEUILLET

August 1991

Table 1

Results of June 1991 Survey of Seat Belt Use in Canada

Estimates of Shoulder Seat Belt Use From Annual Surveys 1980-1991

% of Car Drivers Wearing Shoulder Belts, Where Available*

Prov.	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Nfld	2.8	8.6	67.8	75.9	69.7	65.5	61.4	64.6	72.4	64.6	84.2	91.6
PEI	6.2	3.4	7.2	5.6	9.3	17.9	13.7	50.0	82.0	72.7	65.2	74.7
NS	9.3	11.4	8.7	12.1	20.2	80.8	79.8	68.6	73.4	79.1	83.4	83.9
NB	5.6	8.1	4.2	66.5	60.2	63.4	66.5	65.0	67.6	64.4	76.9	81.9
Que.	39.0	40.7	67.5	60.4	54.3	53.4	67.7	85.8	81.5	81.6	93.5	92.4
Ont.	43.7	52.5	48.9	60.1	61.9	66.4	65.9	67.6	70.3	70.8	71.6	79.7
Man.	6.0	6.4	7.0	11.1	61.6	53.6	61.3	64.6	66.0	79.3	73.4	79.4
Sask.	60.7	50.5	48.4	54.0	49.6	51.1	59.7	71.9	81.0	87.7	91.5	91.5
Alb.	12.7	11.0	17.1	18.2	19.8	24.4	27.8	74.3	82.5	44.6	88.1	84.4
BC	49.3	42.4	53.0	67.4	72.7	73.8	78.3	80.4	79.8	85.2	88.3	87.0
Canada	36.4	38.1	45.6	52.0	54.9	58.4	63.2	74.0	75.8	73.9	81.9	85.1

* Shoulder-belt fitting:

1980 - 95.0%	1986 - 98.7%
1981 - 97.4%	1987 - 98.7%
1982 - 96.8%	1988 - 98.6%
1983 - 96.8%	1989 - 99.1%
1984 - 98.0%	1990 - 99.6%
1985 - 97.9%	1991 - 99.2%

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Table 2

Estimates of Shoulder Seat Belt Use by Type of Vehicle - June 1991

Province	Passenger Cars	Passenger Vans	Light Trucks	Total
Newfoundland	91.6	87.2	87.9	90.6
Prince Edward Island	74.7	60.2	33.5	69.1
Nova Scotia	83.9	82.9	73.1	82.4
New Brunswick	81.9	77.2	65.8	79.9
Quebec	92.4	87.5	89.7	91.7
Ontario	79.7	75.5	56.2	77.1
Manitoba	79.4	73.6	70.7	77.7
Saskatchewan	91.5	87.2	88.2	90.5
Alberta	84.4	77.9	66.5	81.2
British Columbia	87.0	84.0	73.9	84.9
Canada	85.1	80.2	70.2	83.0
*Yukon	24.5	26.2	20.2	23.0
*N.W.T.	74.4	79.1	58.6	68.9

* Transport Canada's first seat belt surveys in the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory.

Table 3

Estimates of Shoulder Seat Belt Use by Road Types - June 1991

% of Car Drivers Wearing Shoulder Belts

Province	Urban	Rural*	Total
Newfoundland	91.6	91.4	91.6
Prince Edward Island	74.7	68.8	74.3
Nova Scotia	83.9	94.9	85.3
New Brunswick	81.9	77.4	81.3
Quebec	92.4	92.3	92.4
Ontario	79.7	75.2	79.5
Manitoba	79.4	84.7	79.6
Saskatchewan	91.5	89.2	91.4
Alberta	84.4	77.7	84.0
British Columbia	87.0	90.5	87.2
Canada	85.1	84.9	85.1

* Inter city highways or country roads

Transport Canada's latest annual survey of seat belt use was undertaken during the week of June 17 to June 23, 1991. All previous surveys were undertaken during the last week of October of each year. Transport Canada will conduct another belt use survey this year during the last week of October as usual.

Results

For Canada as a whole, the estimated proportion of drivers of cars using the available shoulder belts increased to a record 85.1 percent in 1991 from 81.9 percent in 1990 (see Table 1). This estimate is accurate within ± 0.7 percent 19 times out of 20 in reported samples.

Highlights of the results of the survey of passenger vehicle drivers for individual provinces were as follows (in rounded percentages):

- Newfoundland's rate improved to 92 percent from 84 percent last year, while the 92 percent rates in Quebec and Saskatchewan were essentially unchanged from 1990.

- British Columbia and Nova Scotia recorded rates of 87 percent and 84 percent respectively, compared to 88 percent and 83 percent.

- Alberta's 84 percent rate was down four percent; New Brunswick followed with a rate of 82 percent, up five percent; Manitoba's rate of 79 percent was up six percent; Ontario's rate of 80 percent was up eight percent, and Prince Edward Island's 75 percent rate was up 10 percent.

Transport Canada's first seat belt surveys in the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory showed use rates of 74 percent and 25 percent respectively.

This year we have three provinces attaining belt use rates of more than 90 percent. They are the result of increased safety awareness by the motoring public as well as concerted efforts in the areas of policy-making, safety promotion and enforcement by the provincial governments, police forces and road safety associations.

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Table 2 presents the survey results of shoulder belt use by type of vehicle. As last year, this year's survey also distinguished passenger vans from light trucks. The survey showed that the use of seat belts by drivers was 80 percent in passenger vans and 70 percent in light trucks from 78 percent and 68 percent respectively last year. Seat belt use by passenger van drivers varied from 60 percent in P.E.I. to 87 percent in Quebec, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan; use by drivers of light trucks varied from 33 percent in P.E.I. to 90 percent in Quebec. These two categories of vehicles accounted for 24 percent of the vehicles included in the survey.

Survey Method

The survey was undertaken by observers at 178 urban sites selected by province, road type and community size, and was comparable to the samples used in the previous belt use surveys. In addition to these 178 sites, the survey was also undertaken at 22 rural sites (on highways or country roads), and the results from these sites are summarized separately in Table 3. A weighted combined estimate based on all 200 sites is also presented, for which the traffic counts on urban and rural sites are used as weights. The observation techniques in the survey were identical to those of the 1981 to 1990 surveys, in that observers recorded the availability of shoulder belts, driver's use of shoulder belts, weather conditions, type of vehicle, driver's sex and age group.

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